



# ALERT

October 2005



Lincoln Resource Center, Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy

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The **ALERT**, a current awareness publication of the Lincoln Resource Center (LRC), is designed to keep you abreast of the latest issues and debates in the United States and provide you with U.S. perspectives on global affairs. Our librarians regularly sift through academic journals, think tank publications, and Government documents, and explore other print and electronic media to identify significant and interesting materials for your perusal and research needs. Topics covered include economics, international affairs, political and social processes, education, culture, and the arts. Except when indicated, the opinions expressed in these resources do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Government or its related agencies.

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## ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES

1. "Gasoline Prices: New Legislation and Proposals" by Carl E. Behrans and Carol Glover. **CRS Issue Brief for Congress**, October 5, 2005. 14 pages. Article.

*As gasoline prices shot over \$3.00 a gallon following Hurricane Katrina, Congress began to revisit the energy issue despite having just passed the massive Energy Policy Act of 2005. This document summarizes the key factors, which combined to put pressure on gasoline prices, including increased world demand for crude oil and U.S. refinery capacity inadequate to supply gasoline to a recovering national economy, and analyzes the current energy crisis.*

2. "U.S. Proposal for WTO Agriculture Negotiations" by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, October 10, 2005. 3 pages. Document.

*This document summarizes the United States proposal for ambitious results in all three pillars of the agriculture negotiations: export competition, market access, and domestic support. The U.S. proposal is contingent on comprehensive reform and meaningful commitments by all members, except the least developed countries.*

3. "Does Inequality (Worldwide) Matter?" by Robert Hunter Wade. **Challenge**, September-October 2005. 26 pages. Article.

*Wade, a leading international development scholar, assesses the current conventional wisdom about globalization and liberalized markets. In a comprehensive analysis, he outlines what the proponents of neoliberal policies believe and then debunks those arguments. He demonstrates how damaging worldwide inequality truly is.*

4. “Making Development Work” by Robert W. Hahn and Paul C. Tetlock.. **Policy Review**, August-September 2005. 12 pages. Article.

*The economies of developing countries can be substantially improved if aid is associated with recipient countries' policies that support performance. The authors discuss a new development model incorporating “information markets” which provide a low-cost way to evaluate policies. The model aims to enable aid agencies to spend their limited resources wisely and make payments based on performance.*

5. “Ten Myths About Governance and Corruption” by Daniel Kaufmann. **Finance and Development**, Vol. 42, No. 3, September 2005. 6 pages. Article.

*Kaufmann, director of Global Programs at the World Bank Institute, explores 10 myths about governance, a crucial ingredient in economic development. He recommends a bolder approach to development in which rich nations must both deliver its aid and trade liberalization promises and lead by example.*

6. “Malaysian-American Relations: Common Values, Shared Interests” by Christopher J. LaFleur, U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia. September 21, 2005. 7 pages. Text of Speech.

*In his remarks at the University of Malaya, while discussing the strengths of the trade and economics realm in U.S.-Malaysia relations, U.S. Ambassador LaFleur pointed out that in 2004, the U.S. exported \$11 billion worth of goods to Malaysia, while Malaysia sent \$28 billion worth of goods to the U.S. The Ambassador also discussed TIFA (Trade and Investment Framework Agreement) with Malaysia, pointed out that 18 U.S. firms involved in Malaysia’s semiconductor and electronics industry provide nearly a fifth of Malaysia’s total export earnings (in 2004), and, among other matters, underscored the importance of a strong IPR (intellectual property rights) regime to further bolster the economic and trade partnership.*

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

7. “Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?” by F. Gregory Gause III. **Foreign Affairs**, September/October 2005. 6 pages. Article.

*The United States is engaged in what President George W. Bush has called a “generational challenge” to instill democracy in the Arab world. But is it true that the more democratic a country becomes, the less likely it is to produce terrorists and terrorist groups?*

8. “Facing Double Jeopardy: Nuclear Proliferation and Terrorism” by Jon B. Wolfsthal. **Georgetown Journal of International Affairs**, Winter 2005. 8 pages. Article.

*The possibility of nuclear terrorism has become the international community’s central focus. The author discusses international efforts in addressing terrorist threats, especially how to obstruct terrorists from acquiring nuclear materials.*

9. "The Freedom Crusade" by David C. Hendrickson and Robert W. Tucker. **The National Interest**, Fall 2005. 10 pages. Article.

*Under the Bush Administration, the global promotion of democracy has emerged as the defining mission of American foreign policy. This article discusses the various contradictions and tensions within the U.S. stance and why promoting democracy can jeopardize American security.*

10. "The Politics of Power: New Faces and New Challenges" by Richard N Haass. **Harvard International Review**, Summer 2005. 6 pages. Article.

*Richard Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations, presents his views on the politics of power, which he characterizes as military, economic, diplomatic and cultural, and beyond nation-states. He presents two future scenarios: one, a bipolar world where another power balances out the U.S., another, a "modern" dark age, if the U.S. fails.*

11. "America's Bismarckian Asia Policy" by Eric Heginbotham and Christopher P Twomey. **Current History**, September 2005. 8 pages. Article.

*The authors argue that the United States should make three adjustments in its bilateral relationships with Asian countries: supplement security relationships with active support for multilateral organizations; make top priority efforts to deepen liberal democracy; and permit the State Department and the Pentagon to have equal voice.*

12. "The Contemporary Presidency: Condoleezza Rice as NSC Advisor: A Case Study of the Honest Broker Role" by John P Burke. **Presidential Studies Quarterly**, September 2005. 22 pages. Article.

*This article explores the broker role of National Security Council Advisor Condoleezza Rice during three crucial decision making episodes in George W. Bush's first term: in the aftermath of September 11; the war in Iraq; and Iraq's postwar stabilization and reconstruction.*

## **SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PROCESSES**

13. "Only in America-The Evolving Muslim American Culture" by Renee Warner Syed *et al.* **Azizah**, Vol.4 No. 1 2005. 8 pages.

*The Muslim population is growing in America and a unique culture is evolving, according to the authors. They say the American cultural landscape is seeing a strong Muslim culture marked with open dialogue, hybrid traditions, and innovative styles, including in the theater, in rap music and comedy. Muslim American culture also encompasses expressive literature, innovative clothing styles, new mosque architecture, interest free mortgage financing, "halal" investments and ethnic foods, observe the authors.*

14. "Is It a Honeymoon? An Empirical Investigation of the President's First Hundred Days" by Casey Byrne & Knudsen Dominguez. **Congress & the Presidency**, Spring 2005. 17 pages. Article.

*This paper evaluates the popular hypothesis that the first one hundred days of a presidency are characterized by a "honeymoon" with the Congress. Analyzing an original dataset composed of the bills on which presidents took official positions, it finds that presidents indeed have higher success rates during the first hundred days of their first year than they do later during their first year or during the first hundred days of non inaugural years.*

15. “Do Antiterrorism Laws Go Too Far in Restricting Individual Freedoms? Pros and Cons” by Timothy Lynch *et al.* **Congressional Digest**, September 2005. 23 pages. Article.

*In this article, representatives of the Cato Institute, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Center for American Progress, the Heritage Foundation and the Brookings Institute present the pros and cons of the Patriot Act and antiterrorism laws in a society which strictly upholds civil liberties and wants to keep America safe.*

16. “Islam in America: Separate But Unequal” by Geneive Abdo. **The Washington Quarterly**, Autumn 2005. 11 pages. Article.

*Geneive Abdo, fellow at the Joan B. Kroc Institute, University of Notre Dame, argues that U.S. government policies have resulted in a movement among adherents of Islam within the U.S. toward a new Muslim American identity which will likely challenge not only U.S. foreign policies but also the Bush Administration’s domestic agenda.*

17. “Avoiding the Appearance of Impropriety: With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility” by Cynthia Gray. **Judicature**, July/August 2005. 4 pages. Article.

*Gray discusses the ethical conduct of judges and their commitment to maintaining public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of their decisions. He says at a time when judges are accused of being unaccountable, the judiciary must be answerable to the public's ethical expectations. To counteract accusations of arrogance, judges must be humble in ethical matters and eschew any claims of entitlement.*

18. “America Still Beckons” by Joel Kotkin. **The American Enterprise**, October/December 2005. 4 pages. Article.

*Kotkin discusses several reasons why a powerful new wave of European immigration to the U.S. is taking place, including to participate in a stronger socio-economic environment—generally, to join a society more open than what they are leaving behind. The continuing immigration of some of Europe’s best and brightest suggests that America, the land opportunity, “still beckons.”*

19. “The Court, the Constitution, and the Culture of Freedom” by Peter Berkowitz. **Policy Review**, August/September 2005. 23 pages. Article.

*This article discusses the role of constitutional law in the struggle over freedom's moral and political meaning in the U.S. It is not controversial to contend that in the US, constitutional law serves as a decisive battleground in the struggle over freedom's moral and political meaning. However, Berkowitz shows that the freedom secured by the Constitution is inherently unstable by highlighting several Supreme Court cases.*

20. “The Student Credit Hour” by Jane Wellman **Change**, July/August 2005. 6 pages. Article.

*Jane Wellman explores the serious problems with the student credit hour in U.S. higher education. The credit hour has evolved from a measure of student learning into a tool in the administrative world of budgets, accountability metrics, and external reporting. The credit hour has proven to be a remarkably flexible and adaptive metric.*

21. "The Learned Report on Teacher Education: A Vision Delayed" by David Imig and Scott Imig. **Change**, September/October 2005. 8 pages. Article.

*The article focuses on the Learned Report on Teacher Education, which recommended that all teachers needed four years of study in a college exclusively, devoted to the preparation of teachers. During a period when many were satisfied with high school credentials the recommendation was viewed as both bold and expensive but today it became the standard for teacher preparation.*

## GLOBAL ISSUES

22. "New Bull's Eyes for Drugs" by Terry Kenakin. **Scientific American**, October 2005. 8 pages. Article.

*This article focuses on new ways of manipulating drugs through new advances in technology. A familiar class of cell-surface receptors (G-protein coupled receptor (GPCRs) turns out to offer an array of fresh targets that could yield new treatments for disorders ranging from HIV infection to obesity.*

23. "Faith of the Future: Updating Religious Paradigms for the Infotech Age" by Don C. Davis **The Futurist**, September-October 2005. 4 Pages. Article.

*Religious leaders now have a major opportunity to accept the new knowledge and capabilities created by science and technology. The author believes that this acceptance will help guide individuals to a global consciousness and a better understanding of their responsibilities for each other and the future of the world.*

24. "E-Reference Books: A Knovel Experience" by Laura M. Felter. **Searcher**, September 2005. 7 Pages. Article.

*Knovel is a current leader in electronic reference books production and it keeps expanding the technological capabilities of e-books, as well as expanding its content in core and emerging fields in science and technology. Knovel carries over 700 essential reference books and databases covering chemistry and the life sciences, materials, and engineering.*

25. "Advertising, Alcohol, and Youth" by Jon P. Nelson. **Regulation**, Summer 2005. 8 Pages. Article.

*Jon P. Nelson, professor of economics at Penn State University analyzes the impact of alcohol advertising on youth and considers First Amendment rights and studies conducted by the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth, among other econometric models and reports. He says, a report to Congress in 2000 by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism concluded "the results of research on the effects of alcohol advertising are mixed and not conclusive."*

26. "Human Population Grows Up" by Joel E. Cohen. **Scientific American**, September 2005. 7 pages. Article

*The author provides a history of population growth and analyses its problems and future challenges. The discussion includes such issues as limits on the number of children couples wish to have and the safety and sustainability of growing human populations.*

27. "Scientific Uncertainties and Policy Controversies Over Global Warming" by Murray Weidenbaum. USA Today, July 2005. 2 pages. Article

*Greenhouse gases contribute to global warming and simultaneously, natural causes also play a role. To compound the problem, there is lack of hard data on the relative importance of natural causes versus human-generated factors. Weidenbaum discusses the scientific uncertainties and the policy controversies over global warming.*

## NEWS

### OFFICIAL OPENING OF LINCOLN CORNER PERPUSTAKAAN KUALA LUMPUR



The Lincoln Corner (a branch of the Lincoln Resource Center) was opened October 23, 2005 in Perpustakaan Kuala Lumpur (open to the public) at No. 1 Jalan Raja, K.L. Tel: 03-26123500; E-mail: [idrisjamaludin@dbkl.gov.my](mailto:idrisjamaludin@dbkl.gov.my). Photos above depict a ribbon cutting ceremony and Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Ambassador Karen Hughes, U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia Christopher J. LaFleur and Encik Sariffuddin (Dewan Bandaraya) browsing through some of the high quality publications of the Lincoln Corner.

## BIOTECHNOLOGY SEMINAR

The U.S. Embassy plans to organize a biotechnology seminar on November 21, 2005 featuring perspectives by Dr. Dennis Gonsalves, Director of the U.S. Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center (U.S. Department of Agriculture) in Hawaii. Dr. Gonsalves is an expert on (ringspot) virus resistant papaya cultivation. If you wish to attend the seminar, please send your full name and contact details via e-mail to [lrckl@po.jaring.my](mailto:lrckl@po.jaring.my) with the subject line: Biotechnology Seminar, to receive an invitation.

## LINCOLN RESOURCE CENTER

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**OCTOBER 2005**

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**LINCOLN RESOURCE CENTER**



## LINCOLN CORNERS MALAYSIA



With the opening of the **Lincoln Corner Perpustakaan Kuala Lumpur**, the U.S. Embassy has established six Corners across the country where significant American books, poster exhibits, CD-Roms, DVDs and several U.S. electronic databases are accessible to the Malaysian public, free of charge. Another Lincoln Corner will soon be opened in Johor, which has also expressed to host one.

To promote better understanding between the U.S. and Malaysia, the U.S. Embassy is working with various Malaysian public libraries to host “Lincoln Corners,” (small branches of the Lincoln Resource Center) to enable the Malaysian public to access accurate, timely and adequate information about the United States.

Lincoln Corners are special collections covering a broad spectrum of topical issues with materials that are not generally found in most Malaysian public libraries. These special collections focus on American history and government, literature, art, culture, business, trade and commerce, educational opportunities, statistics, travel information, religious and cultural diversity, biotechnology, sustainable development, rule of law and civil rights, *et cetera*. Books, and magazines on American sports, hobbies, fashion and entertainment and those which appeal to young children are included.

The Lincoln Corners are also venues where Malaysians and Americans meet to discuss topics of mutual interest. To support these initiatives, the U.S. Embassy has presented to the Corners in KL, Melaka, Sabah and Sarawak, digital video conferencing equipment (DVC) in order to permit U.S. experts who can't travel to Malaysia, to confer in “real time” with Malaysian counterparts and broaden the U.S.-Malaysia experience. Today, Lincoln Corners are located at:

### **Lincoln Corner Kuala Lumpur**

Kuala Lumpur (City) Library  
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Fax: 03-2693 7313  
E-mail: [idrisjamaludin@dbkl.gov.my](mailto:idrisjamaludin@dbkl.gov.my)

### **Lincoln Corner Sabah**

Sabah State (City) Library  
Jln Tuanku Abdul Rahman  
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
Tel: 088-260 526  
Fax:  
E-mail: [Bukil.Gandau@sabah.gov.my](mailto:Bukil.Gandau@sabah.gov.my)

### **Lincoln Corner Melaka**

Melaka State (City) Library  
Tingkat 1, Dewan Hang Tuah  
75572 Melaka  
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### **Lincoln Corner Terengganu**

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